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BYS Minutes 09/10/2008

Minutes of the Board of Youth Services September 10, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm.

Present: Elizabeth Oppedisano, Donna Dolan, Carlene Newell, Jeannette Mills, Mary DeCoursey, Leon Cantor, Lori Talanian, Cindy Sheridan, Robert Bongiorno, Lynn Horgan, Kevin Flood, Maryanne Andrew, Joan Axelrod Lehigh.

Absent: Joan Robbio

Minutes from May 14, 2008 discussed and pending approval.

Agenda:

Welcome, greeting and introduction of members; new and old.

- Review of mailed information: Corrections made to revised BYS roster and website contents. Board expressed desire to include contact information on website as AYCC with appropriate telephone number. Members agreed that personal e-mail addresses were not necessary and agreed with Robert's suggestion to inquire if a town email address was an option. Lynn will follow-up with Joan Roman on this.
- Subcommittee Discussion: Leon reviewed plans for an active year ahead.

The following subcommittees were proposed:

Youth Needs Assessment: Last year's retreat to refine and update the Board's mission, roles and plans for the future resulted in the desire to implement a Youth Needs Assessment. Jeannette mentioned that Joe Healy is willing to return and assist the committee with this assessment. Members: Kevin, Maryanne, Carlene, Lynn and Mary volunteered to work on this sub-committee.

AYCC- Leon expressed desire for this committee to review agency work, budget and publicity needs as well as advocacy for the agency and its services. Leon encouraged the board to contact him if interested in learning more.

Arlington Assistance:

- * Fuel/Utility/ Fundraising assistance: Leon stated that a fundraiser may be needed. Bobby offered to take the lead in this area, following up with connections and resources.
- * Holiday Help Program: Carlene mentioned that this has been a group effort in the past. Donna volunteered to be the Ottoson contact and Lori offered to be the elementary school contact.

Board of Youth Services Publicity: Jeannette and Bobby will contact Andy Metzker of the Arlington Advocate.

Website for Board and AYCC: Lynn said she will oversee the website and manage minutes with the help of Joan Roman.

Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition (AYHSC): Leon reminded the Board that participation in the Coalition is open to anyone who is interested. Christine Connolly Sharkey, Director of Health and Human Services joined the meeting and provided an overview and update of the Youth and Safety Coalition. Christine informed the Board that the town has been awarded two grants, one for \$125,000 over the next five years with the potential for up to ten years and the other for \$100,000. The AYHSC plans to hire three staff people, set up working groups and plans to implement a one-year action plan. Positions include: Executive Director, Project Coordinator and Diversion Program Coordinator. The Coalition hopes to change the tolerance norm to a community attitude shift.

Reports

Diversion Program: Cindy reported that the newly formed Diversion Program has developed positive relations with the DA office and the court system

Parent Education Programs: Carlene reported that the program schedule for 2008-2009 will be available soon. In December, Dr. Michael Furstenberg will be presenting on the topic of drugs and alcohol. Carlene requested sponsorship from the Board for \$350.00 for the parent education forums scheduled for the upcoming school year. Donna made a motion to donate, multiple seconds followed. Leon reported that there is no budget for the Board of Youth Services per se. The Arlington town account gift fund is used for random donations.

Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition: Carlene reported that the Coalition meetings occur on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30. The spring Coalition is tentatively scheduled for March 19, 2009.

New Business

Lori Talanian was acknowledged for a recent article written in the September Boston Magazine. In this article Arlington was rated in the top fifty for fiscal responsibility. Lori's new role in the used text book cost containment department has resulted in significant savings to the schools.

Christine reported that the Council on Aging will work with the Fuel Assistance/Food Pantry operations to increase funds.

Cindy inquired about financial support of the Thompson camperships. Funding options discussed and the coalition was included as a source of payment.

Lynn summarized the historical snapshot of the Board of Youth Services which was sent out in the welcome packet. Lynn invited members to review and share feedback, edits as indicated.

Next meeting scheduled for October 15th, then November 12th.

8:40 Meeting adjourned
Respectfully submitted by Lynn Horgan